

NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

Casner Prescribed Fire Project

Idaho

2004



This spring, the Casner prescribed fire project, funded by the National Fire Plan, on the Idaho City District of the Boise National Forest burned 500 acres of south-facing forest at low intensity to reduce fuel loads, reduce the risk of severe, uncharacteristic wildfire, and restore fire as a natural process in the landscape.

This is the second time the project area has been burned under prescribed conditions in recent years. The first prescribed fire occurred in 1998, and later the area was commercially thinned to reduce fuels.

“The Casner area is now in good shape ecologically,” said south zone fuels specialist Myron Hotinger. “We knew we needed multiple treatments over several years to restore a healthy forest. We are now in ‘maintenance mode,’ and can use prescribed fire and other tools to make sure those healthy conditions continue.”

A second 450-acre area adjacent to the prescribed burn will be burned in the next two to three years. The two burns will be undertaken in different years to reduce the amount of potential sedimentation into Grimes Creek and Mores Creek.



The Casner project area is within a wildland-urban interface area identified in the Boise County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan. Several subdivisions and homes lie within two miles, and the prescribed fire reduced potential wildfire threats to these structures.

The prescribed fire project is one of several integrated projects that have been or will be undertaken as part of the 23,000-acre Warm Springs Ridge Vegetation Management Project.

The Warm Springs Ridge project was designed to improve forest conditions by moving forest vegetation towards more historic conditions through precommercial thinning, timber harvest and prescribed fire. In many of these areas, the fire will also improve forage for big-game species such as deer and elk. In addition, the Warm Springs Ridge project will close, reconstruct or decommission roads to reduce sediment and improve watershed conditions within the area.